THE

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"Of those men who have overturned the Liberties of Republics, the greatest number "have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the People—com- "mencing DEMAGOGUES, and ending TYRANTS." HAMILTON.

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To the Editor of the Weekly Inspector.

SIR,

I HAVE perused with great indignation the illiberal attack of one Mr. Mar-Pedant upon the Monthly Review, a book which contains exquisite declamation, sentences of sound morality, Greek quotations, Latin verses, and other excellent matters, amatory, critical, sentimental, and philosophical. The author of that Review, with a heart attuned to the finest feelings, and a head quick with the most ingenious argument, appears to my unlettered judgment to have a strong claim upon the patronage of the American public; and as the ungenerous attack of Mr. Mar-Pedant has hitherto received no answer, I will venture to defend the Review, though the author of the Review has not deigned to defend himself. Mr. Mar-Pedant appears from his letter, to be one of those men (the pests of modern learning) called wits, and we accordingly see, that instead of solid argument wherewith to disprove the high pretensions of the Review, he has recourse to ridicule, sarcasm, and low humour. Now nothing appears to me more convincing that a man has taken the wrong side of an argument, than the use of the above weapons. For I conclude that he whose subject matter admits of sound logic, would disdain to ridicule that which by reason he could more convincingly condemn; but not to insist upon this argument, which perhaps is too general, let us review Mr. Mar-Pedant more particularly. He charges the author of the Review with the mean practice (for so he terms it) of stealing Greek and Latin quotations: and without pretending to deny, I will venture upon two grounds, practice and utility, to justify, the fact. For the purpose of argument, of illustration, or more commonly of breeding in your readers a good conceit of your learning, you wish to quote a particular passage; now my lord Bacon lays it down as a general rule that nature does nothing in vain; and it may be safely inferred that his opinion was, that art should work in imitation of nature, and therefore if you only want a particular passage, would it not be vain and useless to read for that single end a whole book? Indeed, if Mr. Mar-Pedant proves any thing, he proves too much; for it is confessed that the only use of learning is to exhibit it: but now Mr. Mar-Pedant would not insinuate the propriety of quoting a whole book, and if not, I can neither perceive the utility of a borrower's reading the whole, nor the meanness of transcribing a desired quotation from another, and more fashionable work. True it is, I have a great veneration for the ancients, but I confess I could never understand the use of reading those authors as we do books in the vulgar tongue; what we want of antiquity is something wherewith to give veneration to our work, and therefore as by the industry of our predecessors we can find quotations fitted for every subject, with excellent translations *(for the benefit of the English reader)* subjoined, this primary object is as well attained by transcription from the copy as from the original. Then why not Αρχιτα;

περὶ τὸ πᾶντος, rather from the Pursuits of Literature, than from the ancient copy, which perhaps is not so handy, and even if it were, would probably be written with crabbed contractions; whereas, in the *Pursuits* all is delivered in good relaxed genuine Greek. For you will observe, Mr. Editor, I do not defend the clumsy habit of giving the Greek in Italian characters, which every sound critic must condemn, and which Mr. Bristed's practice has never sanctioned. For these reasons the inutility of the thing must sufficiently appear. But if any doubt yet remains in the mind of the reader, let him for a moment reflect upon the generality of the practice; a fact too well known to need any proof, and then both from reason and authority Mr. Bristed will stand cleansed of the imputation of meanness in the opinion of all who have read the uncandid attack of his captious adversary. But to sift this matter more thoroughly, we will make use of the argument *ab inconvenienti*, a legitimate mode of reasoning, according to Sir Edward Coke; for if you transcribe from the original, it is nineteen chances to one that your reader will ever enjoy that secret satisfaction resulting from recognition; whereas, if you transcribe from an approved modern work, (without notice) your reader may in all probability enjoy the pleasure of second sight, and review with renewed satisfaction what he has seen before; and by this means too you insensibly familiarize, as it were, your mere English readers to the precious relics of antiquity. Thus much for the Greek and Latin quotations. Let us now examine another charge against the author of the Review, more serious than the former, and, if true, not justifiable upon any principle: I mean the charge of copying the English declamation of the author of the Pursuits of Literature, and passing it off as original. Mr. Hurd (to a perusal of whose works I recommend Mr. Mar-Pedant) has clearly proved that imitation is not plagiarism, and in his notes upon the Epistle to the Pisos, has shown some remarkable instances of the same thought expressed in nearly the same language by different authors, who had no common medium of communication. If then this great similarity is met with in authors so removed from each other, why may we not suppose that the author of the Review and of the Pursuits have accidentally embodied the same thoughts in similar language? The resemblance is natural, when the cause of the resemblance is sufficiently understood. The author of the Review and the Pursuits had the same common sources of information, nature and art; they were both intent on the same subject, both earnestly exhorting their respective countrymen to the zealous study of the Greek and Latin tongues, and both *familiarly acquainted* with the same authors; surely then upon so trite and barren a subject, the same ideas would almost necessarily occur to each; and is it then astonishing to find a strong resemblance in the qualities of two brother streams gently flowing from the same paternal spring? But the language being similar, proves conclusively that the resemblance was accidental; for can it be supposed that an author of established fame would attempt to copy what might be so easily detected? The supposition is absurd, and does equal injustice to the judgment and to the talents of Mr. Bristed. In truth, Mr. Mar-Pedant's strictures appear to me not only unjust to the author of the Review, but an insult upon the sagacity and learning of the American literati, who certainly never suspected the disingenuous artifice with which Mr. Bristed is charged, nor can we suppose that the critics of "the most enlightened country in the world," would have failed to detect and expose so gross a deceit. Neither is it at all credible that so bold a plagiarism could have for a moment escaped the discerning eye of the great dictator of our little republic of letters—the American Warburton—the learned editor of the Christian's Magazine. But it is the misfortune of this city, that no sooner does a handy labourer in the vineyard of literature appear, than a swarm of pestilent summer-

flies hover round him, perplex his labours, and if he have not patience and fortitude equal to his wit and wisdom, blast the promised hope of the coming year. But I trust in heaven (to soften a figure of a learned gentleman of our bar) that these insects will no longer be permitted to infest us, and that the strong breath of public patronage will blow them from before the face of this young hope of our country's literature. I trust that the public will perceive their discernment to be implicated in the innocence or guilt of Mr. Bristed, and that they will accordingly protect him, and vindicate their own quickness of perception from unfounded imputation. And let me entreat the youthful censor not to be discouraged by the unprovoked attack of an obscure writer. Let him remember that the highest excellence is most subject to the blights of envy, that the greatest poets have had each his Zoilus; that though no virtue can secure us from attack, yet that truth and genius are irresistible in their course. Let him hold up to his view, at once an encouragement and an example, the great masters of antiquity, and, deterred by no difficulty, shaken by no obloquy, disheartened by no affected contempt, he will sail down the stream of time, Greek at the prow and Latin at the helm.

A friend to genius, AND *wit,* AND *humour,* AND *learning,* AND *sense,* AND *spirit,* AND *taste,* AND *virtue,* AND *morality,* AND *religion,* AND *Latin,* AND *Greek, &c. &c.*

TRIAL OF COL. BURR.

(*Continued from page* 297.)

Debate on the motion for a subpœna duces tecum.

Mr. Martin declared that Col. Burr was entitled to a copy of these orders, which were contrary to the constitution, and by which the life and property of an innocent man were exposed to destruction. The originals were not expected, but the copies had been refused, under presidential influence. In the farcical trials of Smith and Ogden, the officers of government had excused themselves from attending under the President's name, and perhaps the same farce might be repeated.

The President had undertaken to prejudge A. Burr, by declaring that of his guilt there could be no doubt. He has assumed the knowledge of the Supreme Being, by pretending to search the heart of his client. He has proclaimed him a traitor in the face of that country which had rewarded him. He had let slip the dogs of war, the hell-hounds of persecution, to hunt him down. And should he now keep back the papers which are wanted at his trial, when life was at stake? It was a sacred principle that the accused has a right to all the evidence necessary in his defence. Whoever withholds this evidence, is substantially a murderer, and is so recorded in the register of heaven. Can the President of the U. S. give his enemies the opportunity of saying that Col. Burr is the victim of anger, jealousy, and hatred? It is not within the province of the attorney for the U. S. nor the President, to decide that these papers are not material to the accused. It is for the court to say whether they are material to the case, and for the petit jury to decide, if the motion to commit for treason be continued.

The counsel for the prosecution seemed to think that we are not to be trusted with these papers; but why attribute unworthy motives to Col. Burr's counsel, which their opponents would disdain?

It may be objected that this is a private and confidential letter from Gen. W. But if the President were himself present, the court would have a right to demand a disclosure of Gen. W.'s private conversations. The law recognizes none of this kind of confidence. 2 Atkins, 52. 4. 11. Dutchess of Kingston's case, where a physician entreated the court to ex-

cuse him, but professional confidence could not screen him. Lord Barrington conjured them to excuse his giving in testimony what had been disclosed in private friendship. His solicitations were disregarded. Mc Nally, p. 230. If the President were himself here, he could be examined respecting this letter.

We shall perhaps be told that this would be making too free with high characters—That we shall call the honour of Gen. W. in question. But this man has already broken down the constitution, ground the civil authorities into dust, and subjected all around him to military despotism. Is it possible to believe that such a man may not swerve from the direct line of decorum? Does not his conduct show that one man may be destroyed by another man, or by a faction, with the same unfeeling indifference that a philosopher sees rats struggling in an air pump?

Mr. M. produced several instances from Tucker's Blackstone, that even the originals of recorded papers may be brought before a court of justice.

Copies of the navy orders for destroying the property and person, would be material, in order to shew that these acts which the prosecutors deem treasonable, were in fact nothing but justifiable means of defence.

Thursday, June 11th.

After some complaint of indisposition, Mr. Hay remarked that he regretted that certain observations of the court, delivered yesterday, recommending moderation, and a strict attention to the question, had not been given in an earlier stage of the trial. Had that been the case, many remarks on the part of the prosecution, and which, as friends to the administration, and to their country, they had a right to make, had been spared. He said that in the situation Col. Burr stood, he was not properly before the court, as no true bill had been found. His only object was to keep the accused and his counsel on legal ground. He had voluntarily offered to procure the testimony for which they were seeking. It was singular that the counsel for Mr. Burr should charge those for the prosecution with having conceded the points for which they had contended. This was intended to impress the auditors with false opinions, and a belief that the counsel for the prosecution had advanced arguments which they were afterwards obliged or thought prudent to retract. They had, however, fallen into a pit of their own digging.

The granting of the motion before the court, as was admitted yesterday, was at the discretion of the court. The court was called on by the accused, yet the accused did not say that the papers were material. The language made use of by them was unprecedented, and particularly that part of the defence which asserted that he had a legal right to oppose the militia of the country. The sentiments which they wished to impress on the spectators were such as he had never expected to have heard in this country from any set of men. They might have suited the temper of the sanguinary tribunals of France, in the reign of the Jacobins, but he never supposed that they would meet with the approbation of the citizens of America. They might have an improper effect on the jury, by exciting their feelings.

Mr. Hay contended that the grounds upon which the affidavit was made, were insufficient; that it would be extremely improper upon such vague suppositions as those expressed in the affidavit, to subject the papers of government to public inspection.

A great clamour, he said, had been excited in New-York, by the prosecution against Ogden and Smith. Mr. Wickham endeavoured yesterday to make a distinction between this case and the case of Smith and Ogden; but it is not probable that those papers would have been material. Mr. Wickham had observed that Gen. Wilkinson had written letters to other people of a different complexion. This was, however, a mere supposition. He has seen no such letters. He lamented that such harsh language had been used respecting such a chief

actor as Gen. Wilkinson. Mr. Hay commented on the observations of Mr. Martin, relative to the justification of Col. Burr, had he resisted the militia of the union. He had expected solid argument from a gentleman of his distinguished talents. He hoped that such principles were not learned in Maryland. As the gentleman had come from another state, a great distance, in behalf of his client, and to illuminate the bar of Virginia by the splendour of his information, he had hoped that he would not have advanced sentiments so opposite to reason, law, and justice. He had never expected to have witnessed such sentiments on such an occasion. It was the duty of the President to call out the militia, in order to suppress the scheme of the accused. But is is contended by counsel very learned in the laws of the country, that Col. Burr had a right to resist the militia. I will not say it is treason nor a misdemeanor to advance such doctrines, but it is extremely improper, and ought not to be tolerated, nor heard with patience.

The motion of Col. Burr is, that you issue a subpœna *duces tecum* to the President of the United States, to bring with him or produce a certain letter from Gen. Wilkinson, and the orders issued for the suppressingthe plans of Col. Burr. The court sitting as one of the pillars of state, cannot sanction such an application, such an insult to the executive of our government. The motion is improper, the ground on which it is founded is wrong, and the inferences drawn by the counsel are wrong. The affidavit of Col. Burr is insufficient to warrant such an application. It is vague and indefinite. It ought to have shown that the papers were material to prove the innocence of the accused. If they are in any way material, they would have a contrary bearing. There is another point of which the court ought to be satisfied, before they grant the motion, and that is, whether this letter be a public document.

The court ought also to be satisfied that the President has this letter. He is not the custos rotulorum of the public. The custody of these papers belongs to the secretarp of state. How absurd therefore to issue an order to the President for papers not in his possession? The same may be said with regard to the order said to have been issued to destroy Col. Burr and those with him. With respect to the letter from Gen. W. they say they must have the original. Why would not a copy answer the same purpose? Gen. W. would not deny it, and an express act of Congress stamps the copy with the same force as the original.

He observed that it was his sincere and fervent wish that the accused might have all the advantage of evidence to which he was by law entitled.

Saturday, June 13th.

On Thursday the grand jury were adjourned till Saturday. On the conclusion of the argument on the motion to obtain a subpœna *duces tecum*, Col. Burr addressed the court. He observed that this was, perhaps, the most proper time for renewing the motion which he had some time since made to the court, about giving more specific instructions to the grand jury on certain points of evidence. These points he had reduced to writing, in the form of abstract propositions, which he would take the liberty of reading to the court.

The following is a list of those propositions, and the authorities cited to support them.

1. That the grand jury cannot, consistently with their oath, find a bill; except on such testimony as would justify the petit jury to find the prisoner guilty.

Foster, 232. Sect. 8. 3 Institute, 25. 2d Institute, 384. Dalton, 519. Judge Wilson's Works, vol. 2d, 364. T. W. William's Justice, 3d vol. printed 1794. 3d State T. 419, 420, and Sir John Howle's observations, 4 S. T. 183. 4th Blackstone, 302 to 306. 2d Hale, chap. 8, page 61. Wilson's edition, with Wilson's note. 2d Hall,

chap. 22, page 169, with Wilson's note. Eunomos Diei. 2d Sect. 39, page 124–5–6. State T. page 3. Foster, page 322, sect. 8.

2. That no testimony or witnesses ought to go to the grand jury but what are legal, and competent to support the charge about which the inquiry is made.

Danby's case, Leach, 443, chap. 187. Dodd's case, Leach, 59, chap. 77. Commonwealth of Virginia, vs. Hopbam, Warles, and Daws, before the gen. court at Williamsburg.

3. That the grand jury cannot return a bill for treason for levying war against the U. S. unless they have two witnesses who swear to the overt act of the treason laid in the indictment, both which witnesses are believed by them.

East's Crown Law, chap. 2d, sect. 64. That both must be believed. 3d State Trials, p. 56.

4. That there must be two witnesses to the grand jury of each overt act, follows also as a consequence from the former position, that they must have such testimony as would be requisite for the petit jury.

5. That the grand jury cannot find a bill for treason, in consequence of any confessions made, though proved by two witnesses. Foster, 241—3—4. Black.

Constitution of the U. S. Article 3d, Sect. 3. Graydon's Digest, 11. Judge Iredell's charge. Fries' Trial, 171–172. v. East, 96, 97.

6. That as the grand jury only hear evidence on the part of the state, if upon that evidence they entertain a doubt of the truth of the charge, they ought not to find the bill, as the presumption is ever in favour of innocence. 1st Mc Nally, 2 to 6.

7. No act of a third person can be given in evidence against the accused, to prove him guilty of treason, or of a misdemeanor, under the law of the 5th June, 1794, unles that act is proved to have been committed by the advice, command, direction, or instigation of the accused, if done in his absence; or if done in presence, unless it be proved that the accused was aiding or assisting.

An act shall bind a person connected with the act. But the declaration shall not bind him, because no part of the act. Mc Nally, 615, 616.

8. The declarations of others cannot be given in evidence on the present inquiry, to support the charge of treason, or of a misdemeanor, under the law of 5th June, 1794, unless it be proved that the accused was present, and assented thereto.

East, 96. In case of conspiracy, confessions are good against him who makes them, but not against others. Peake B. Confess. Peake 7, Hansay. Kelyng 18th, Mc Nally, 40–41. Confessions of one cannot be read against others. 3. State Trial, 574.

A relation of what had been done, no evidence. State Trial, 192 195.

State trials in the presence of others, they acquiescing. Mc Nally, 621.

Mr. Hay opposed this, and contended that the court had no right to give specific instructions to the grand jury, after they had been once generally charged by the court. That no precedent could be brought to support it. That criminal prosecutions ought to proceed without these interruptions.

He said that the chief justice in his charge had dilated on the nature of treason, and given all the information which he thought material. That Burr ought not to meet superior indulgence to any other man, and there was no reason at all for hunting up all the old, musty and absurd doctrines of antiquity, in order to enlist them in his service.

Mr. Botts said that the gentleman but the other day demanded precedents; that the grand jury was not a lawless mob. That it was not Col. Burr's desire to consume much time; he wished to end at once the bonds of recognizance, and the public prejudice which surrounded him, and that they were willing to limit their share to the discussion of a particular time.

The chief justice said it was usual and the best course for the court to charge the jury generally, at the com-

mencement of the term, and to give their opinion on incidental points as they arose, when the grand jury themselves should apply to them for information; that it was manifestly improper to commit the opinion of the court on points which might come before them, to be decided on the trial in chief; that he had generally confined his charges to a few general points, without launching into many details; one reason was, that some of the detailed points might never arise during the session of the grand jury, and any instruction on them would of course be unnecessary; another was, that some of these points might be extremely difficult to decide, and would require an argument of counsel; because there was no judge or man who would not find his solitary meditations of the closet very much assisted by the discussions of others; that he would have had no difficulty in giving his opinion at this time on certain points on which he could obtain a discussion of the counsel, provided he did not thereby commit his opinion on the trial in chief.

Mr. Burr requested him to inspect the list of propositions, that he might determine which of those points would admit of his opinion, and which would not. The list was then handed to the court.

(To be continued.)

SCRAPS.

——Quot capitum vivunt, totidem studiorum
Millia.——

The following extract from the Memoirs of Baron de Tott, may perhaps in some measure account for the resistance which the British have lately experienced at the Dardanelles. The Turks, however, at the time that Baron de Tott commenced his labours, were not so completely defenceless as are the Americans at this moment.

After they had experienced a series of disasters in their wars with the Russians, in consequence of the ignorance of their chiefs, the knavery of the subalterns, and a discipline "which, though severe, was never exact," the Grand Seignior found it necessary to repose confidence in a man of talents. He consequently employed the Baron de Tott, with an absolute power to put the pass at the Dardanelles, which forms the key to his dominions, in a state of defence. To the efforts of that officer it is principally owing that Constantinople is not at this day as defenceless as New-York.

He thus describes his labours:

"My first care was to examine the state of the castles. A view of the soldiers appointed for their defence, was sufficient to show that there was no greater resource to be hoped from discipline and good order, than from the condition of the fortifications. Terror had seized on every mind to such a degree, that they openly talked of abandoning the batteries on the first discharge of the enemy's cannon.

"The permanence of the Turkish garrison, by making each soldier an established citizen, furnishes him with too many interesting objects which demand his care, for him to devote himself entirely to the defence of the citadel in which he is stationed; his concerns extend beyond the walls he defends, nor can he be confined by discipline, which, among the Turks, though always severe, is never exact.

"The slightest consideration of the construction of the Dardanelles, will be sufficient to make us perceive the reason of the desertion which threatened us. Walls without mortar, raised more than thirty feet above the batteries, which were level with the sea, were expected to tumble on the cannon and gunners at the first broadside of the Russians; so that the Turks were in more danger, from such a defence, than from the attack of their enemies.

"An artillery, formidable in appearance, from the width of its bore, but

little to be dreaded after the first discharge, from the slowness with which these enormous pieces must be served, formed the principal batteries on each side of the channel. The fire of the castles called the Dardanelles, could reach to the opposite shore; but scarcely to the midle of the strait, from the two castles erected near its mouth.

"This artillery, all of brass, without trunnions or carriages, laid upon hollowed pieces of wood, with their breeches secured by large stones, to prevent their recoil; a number of other pieces lying in the sand, together with several mortars, seemed more like the ruins of a siege, than preparations for a defence."

"The strait of the Dardanelles, situated fifty leagues to the west of Constantinople, between the Archipelago and the little sea of Marmora, extends from the coast of Troy to Gallipoli over against Lampsacus. This space, about twelve leagues, of an unequal breadth, contains different points, in which the continents of Europe and Asia, which this strait separates, approach to within the distance of three or four hundred fathoms. Three leagues from its mouth, on the side next the Archipelago, at the narrowest part of the strait, have been built the two castles called the Dardanelles; the cannon of each of which commanded the opposite shore. These were, for a long time, the only barrier to secure Constantinople; but the Turks becoming more fearful, though not more enlightened, at length built two others near the mouth; but as they are at the distance of fifteen hundred fathoms, their fire is uncertain, and their defence insufficient."

"The surplus waters which the Black Sea receives, and which cannot be evaporated, pouring into the Mediterranean, through the Bosphorus of Thrace and the Propontis, forms, at the Dardanelles, currents so violent, that frequently ships can scarcely stem them, with all their sails set. Pilots should likewise observe, when they have a sufficient wind, to sail in such a manner as to present the least resistance possible to the force of the waters. To effect this, it is evident, the direction of the currents must be considered; which, driven back from one jutting shore to another, are the grand obstacles to the navigation of the straits; and expose those to great danger who neglect to allow for their effects.

"This, indeed, was the only kind of instruction I could receive from the pilots of the two Turkish vessels; and my observations, on their passing up the straits, suggested hints extremely useful for their defence. I perceived that a battery, erected on the headland called the Barber's Point, to correspond with another, at a convenient distance, on the European side, would give the Turks the power of raking every ship which should endeavour to force a passage, while the ship or ships could not fire their broadsides without exposing the vessel's side to the currents, consequently to be driven back by their violence; and the same situation would afford an opportunity to the Turkish artillery to employ its bar-shot with great effect on their sails, expanded by the brisk gale, necessary to attempt forcing their way, and which, soon destroyed, would leave them in certain danger of being shipwrecked on the coast.

"I had likewise another powerful motive for adopting this system of defence. These batteries would command the anchoring place of the White Spots *; and indeed, the whole space between them and the Dardanelles, and render Constantinople entirely secure, if the Turks would only serve the artillery I was about to have brought thither in any passable manner.

"Another headland, called Mill-Point, nearer the Dardanelles, on the European shore, seemed convenient

* A cove in the straits, on the coast of Asia, between the first and second castles. It is the only anchoring place where the enemy could establish themselves, after having forced the passage of the first entrance.

for constructing another battery, as it might extend its fire to that at Barber's Point, and the castle of Asia. I also determined to erect a fourth on the banks of the Simois, to cover the fortress which joins to it, and which, for the reason I have already mentioned, is not tenable."

"I determined to construct the batteries twenty-two feet thick. The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were already at work, to raise epaulements of earth and fascines; but they were hardly allowed a few tents to protect them from the weather. Government took no care to provide any subsistence for these its wretched slaves, whose neglected harvests perished before their eyes."

"It is plain, from the description of the castles, that the numerous artillery which they contain, could be no way useful in the defence of the strait, unless more advantageously disposed. The Simois (that celebrated river, which, nevertheless, is only a small channel, where the rain water forms a torrent) descends from the mountain, and falls into the sea, below the castle of Asia. I thought it proper to erect a battery, which, serving for an epaulement to the castle, might contain a part of its artillery, while the approaches to it were impeded by this brook. Thus I could cover the side of the castle, the artillery of which commanded the strait lengthwise.

"It was also with this view that the Turks had placed there an enormous piece of ordnance, which would carry a marble ball of eleven hundred pounds weight. This piece, cast in brass, in the reign of Amurath, was composed of two parts, joined together by a screw, where the charge is contained, after the manner of an English pistol. Its breech rested against a massy stone work; and it was placed upon timbers, cut and disposed for that purpose, under a small arch, which served as an embrasure. I could not make use of this enormous cannon in the outworks; and, as they were disposed in such a manner as to prevent its being fired, the Turks murmured at my paying so little regard to a piece of artillery, which, no doubt, had not its equal in the universe.

"The Pacha made some remonstrances to me on that head. He agreed, with me, that the difficulty of charging it would not allow, in case of an attack, to fire it more than once; but, he urged, this single discharge would be so destructive, and reach so far, that no one entertained a doubt but it would be alone sufficient to destroy the whole fleet of the enemy. It was easier for me to give way to this prejudice than to overthrow it, and, without changing my plan of defence, I could, by cutting through the epaulement, in the direction of this piece, allow it room to be fired; but I was willing first to judge of its effect.

"The crowd about me trembled at this proposal; and the oldest among them asserted there was a tradition, that this piece, which had never yet been discharged, would occasion such a shock as must overturn the castle and the city. It was, indeed, possible it might shake some stones out of the wall, but I assured them they would not be regretted by the Grand Seignior; and that the direction of this piece would not allow me to imagine the city would suffer by the explosion.

"Never, certainly, had any cannon so formidable a reputation. Friends and enemies were alike to suffer from its fury. A month was now elapsed since it was determined to load this piece of artillery, which required no less than three hundred and thirty pounds weight of powder; and I sent to the head engineer, to prepare a priming. All who heard me give this order immediately disappeared, to avoid the predicted danger. The Pacha himself was about to retreat, and it was with the utmost difficulty I persuaded him that he ran no risk, in a small kiosk, near the corner of the castle; from whence he might, notwithstanding, observe the effects of the ball.

"Having succeeded in this, nothing

remained but to inspire the engineer with courage; who, though he was the only one who had not fled, showed no great resolution in the remonstrances he made to excite my pity; I, at last, rather silenced than animated him, by promising to expose myself to the same danger. I took my station on the stone work, behind the cannon, and felt a shock like that of an earthquake. At the distance of three hundred fathoms I saw the ball divide into three pieces, and these fragments of a rock crossed the strait, rebounded from the water to the opposite mountain, and left the surface of the sea all in a foam through the whole breadth of the channel. This experiment, while it dissipated the chimerical fears of the people, the Pacha, and the engineers, proved to me likewise the terrible effects of such a ball; and I cut the epaulement in the direction of the piece."

In Gibbon's Decline of the Roman Empire, we have the following account of the origin of this tremendous cannon, which was cast in the fifteenth century.

"Among the implements of destruction, he (Mahomet II) studied with peculiar care the recent and tremendous discovery of the Latins; and his artillery surpassed whatever had yet appeared in the world. A founder of cannon, a Dane or Hungarian, who had been almost starved in the Greek service, deserted to the Moslems, and was liberally entertained by the Turkish sultan. Mahomet was satisfied with the answer to his first question, which he eagerly pressed on the artist. "Am I able to cast a cannon "capable of throwing a ball of stone "of sufficient size to batter the walls "of Constantinople?—I am not ignorant of their strength, but were they "more solid than those of Babylon, I "could oppose an engine of superior "power: the position and management of that engine must be left to "your engineers." On this assurance, a foundery was established at Adrianople: the metal was prepared; and at the end of three months, Urban produced a piece of brass ordnance of stupendous, and almost incredible, magnitude; a measure of twelve palms is assigned to the bore; and the stone bullet weighed six hundred pounds. A vacant place before the new palace was chosen for the first experiment; but, to prevent the sudden and mischievous effects of astonishment and fear, a proclamation was issued, that the cannon would be discharged the ensuing day. The explosion was felt or heard in a circuit of an hundred furlongs: the ball, by the force of gunpowder, was driven above a mile; and on the spot where it fell, it buried itself a fathom deep in the ground. For the conveyance of this destructive engine, a frame or carriage of thirty waggons was linked together and drawn along by a team of sixty oxen; two hundred men on both sides were stationed to poise and support the rolling weight; two hundred and fifty workmen marched before to smooth the way and repair the bridges; and near two months were employed in a laborious journey of one hundred and fifty miles. A lively philosopher derides on this occasion the credulity of the Greeks, and observes, with much reason, that we should always distrust the exaggeration of a vanquished people. He calculates, that a ball, even of two hundred pounds, would require a charge of one hundred and fifty pounds of powder; and that the stroke would be feeble and impotent, since not a fifteenth part of the mass could be inflamed at the same moment. A stranger as I am to the art of destruction, I can discern that the modern improvements of artillery prefer the number of pieces to the weight of metal; the quickness of the fire to the sound, or even the consequence, of a single explosion. Yet I dare not reject the positive and unanimous evidence of contemporary writers; nor can it seem improbable, that the first artists, in their rude and ambitious efforts, should have transgressed the standard of moderation."

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By an arrival at New-Bedford, from England, we have received a London weekly paper of May 24, from which we are enabled to make the following selections:—It does not appear, by any official statements, that the war had been renewed in Poland; but the reports which reach us from almost every quarter, seem to strengthen an opinion that it has been recommenced with dreadful slaughter. The article, under the London head of May 24th on this subject, may be considered to bear a continental date very little distant in time from those brought to Providence, by the Hazard. It is, however, more particular and satisfactory. The late rumours of peace appear to have given to other expectations, which involve not only a sanguinary warfare in Poland, and along the northern maratime coast, but throughout the whole extent of the Turkish empire. This extension of the war, may be considered as resulting from the ill-success of the expedition against the Porte; since it has given to the French, a complete control over the civil and military operations of that power.—*Bost. Gaz.*

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London, May 24.

RUMOURS OF A GREAT BATTLE IN POLAND

A general battle is rumoured to have at length been fought—At a late hour on Friday evening, it was reported that the Russians and Prussians had made a general attack upon the French army.—Others allege that the attack was began by the French.

The Russians and Prussians amounted to about 185,000, of whom 160,000 were Russians.—The French force was near 200,000.—But the Russians had a reserve in Lithuania of 40,000 men more—The battle is rumoured to have been of the most furious and obstinate nature.—It is terminated much in the same way as the battle of Eylau—without any decisive advantages gained by the French—Thirty thousand men are said to have been killed or wounded on both sides.

Yesterday morning we received letters from the coast, which state, that a heavy firing was heard on Thursday night, in the direction of Calais, supposed to have been rejoicings for some victory. The French, of course, if the result were as we have stated it above, indecisive, and if they had nothing more to boast of than they had at Eylau, would claim the victory, and order rejoicings to take place, and *Te Deum* to be celebrated. The conscripts must be encouraged at all events. But if the consequence of the battle was neither the surrender of Dantzic, nor the capture of Koningsberg, the French have little to boast of. The battle is stated to have begun on the 6th; the Emperor Alexander, the King of Prussia, and Bonaparte, headed their respective armies.

Other accounts from Holland state, that the battle was not indecisive, but that the French were defeated.

An American vessel from Rotterdam is off Dover, which landed an over-sea pilot belonging to that place, who states, shat at the time he sailed, a report had reached Rotterdam of a battle having been fought in Poland which lasted three days, and ended in the total defeat of the French—The Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia were personally engaged.—Similar accounts are said to have prevailed at Flushing.

Such are the rumours which have reached us—No accounts of any battle have been officially received by Government.

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Berlin, May 9th.

Up to the 4th, nothing had occurred between either of the armies. The enemy's preparations indicate that he will direct his grand attack along the coast, as, in case of succeeding, he will be in a better situation for relieving Dantzic, and also for receiving support from the shipping of England, Russia, and Sweden. Besides the three Frigates at Koningsberg, intended for taking troops on board, several thousand Russians have been embarked at Pilau, in order to be landed upon the Frisch Nerung, near Dantzic.

By land, the advanced posts of the Russians and Prussians are extended in the front of Braunsberg and Nehlsack. The French advanced posts on the left side are at Frauenberg, Mulhausen, and Wormsdill. The latter place is occupied by eight thousand of the Marshal Prince of Corvo's corp. Within the circuit of six leagues, about Thirty Thousand men are encamped; and, in fact, the whole army is in such a position as to be ready for a general action in a few hours. About the end of last month, couriers were dispatched from the headquarters to all the reinforcements on their march, to hasten their approach with all possible speed.

Dresden, May 5.

The last letters from Vienna mention, that considerable wagers have been laid in the first societies, that the preliminaries of a general peace will be signed before the 1st of July.

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The Turkish army has been wholly reorganized, and every corps of a thousand men, has a French officer, subordinate only to the Commander in Chief. Whilst these arrangements are proceeding in the Turkish Empire, the French Emissaries are stated to be equally busy in every part of the dependent provinces. It is reported, upon good authority, that all the Barbary Powers have declared against us, and that the Mediterranean already swarms with their corsairs. This is of serious consequence to the Merchants of the Levant trade. We believe indeed that the greater part of this trade has been long extinguished, and that what remains is rather to be considered as of private than of national concern. But the hostility of those petty powers is not the less vexatious. Their ships are not confined to the Mediterranean. The Americans suffered so much from them, that they deemed it prudent to purchase an ignominious truce. The French are well aware of this, and their intrigues have long been directed to stir up these privileged robbers against the British Commerce.

Mr. Arbuthnot, and Ad. Duckworth, are on their return home. Sir Sidney Smith is to remain off the mouth of the Dardanelles.

The misunderstanding between the British and Russian governments, relative to some commercial regulations, has been amicably adjusted.

A suit has been entered at the King's Bench, in Ireland, by Mr. *H. Johnson*, Commedian, against *R. Curran*, Esq. for a criminal intercourse with his wife. The gentleman is the eldest son of J. Philpot Curran, Esq. master of the Rolls; and the lady much celebrated for her personal beauty. Mr C. has fled his country.

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PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

LOWER ELBE, May 13th.

Contrary to all expectations, we are still without intelligence concerning the events which in all probability have already taken place in the North. One thing is certain, that Dantzic is the appoint of attack and defence. The papers pressed into the service of France tell us, that the siege of that city is carried on with vigour: they inform us that the garrison makes perpetual sorties, and add, of course, that all these sorties are very unfortunate for the besieged; and they foretell the speedy surrender of the town. But these same accounts do not conceal the determination of the Prussians to defend the place to the last extremity; and the writers by their laboured attempts to shew the probability of a speedy capture, betray rather their own sense of its importance than prove the probability of the event. The *Altona Mercury* of yesterday, relates, in a second edition, that on the 29th ult. at night, *the French made three attempts to take the place by storm*, but in vain; after which an armistice of four hours was granted for burying the dead. It is said, that ships, which passed by on the 5th inst. heard a violent cannonade from the City. This last intelligence discredits a report which two days since had gained great ground, that the siege was raised. It was added, that the Saxons had deserted to a man; that an attack was made by accord at the same instant from the garrison in the city, and the English Frigates before it, upon the French works; and that after an obstinate contest, the enemy was forced to yield his positions, heavy artillery, &c.—This account is still credited here, and the desertion of the Saxons is said to have been acknowledged by the French Minister Bourienne.

In the mean while it is evident that Bonaparte seriously purposes to remedy the fault he has committed in the eyes of military men, by advancing so far into Poland, while Stralsund, Colberg, and Dantzic remain in the power of an enemy who has also the command of the sea. Every thing shows that he is resolved to act for a time on the defensive. He has taken a strong position in Prussia, by means of which he hopes to repel the attacks of the Great Russian Army, which lies before him; and he in the mean while orders the siege of the maritime fortresses in the Baltic. Hence the waste of blood before Dantzic, In one night three ineffectual attempts to storm the fortress! Every one knows the immense loss of which such an attempt causes, even when successful; but this is indifferent to a General, whose disregard for the lives of his men is beyond all precedent. After Bonaparte's famous first campaign in Italy, he was asked as to the expense. "*J'ai depense dix mille hommes par mois*," (I spent 10,000 men every month,) he replied. It ought not to be forgotten, that he then commanded only Frenchmen. Now he has allies; and he will be subject to no slight embarrassment in the choice of his assailants.—What troops, for instance, were employed in the threefold attack on the 29th? If Germans, how naturally must the thought occur to them, "We are the chosen victims!" Such a suggestion would fly in every quarter of the Grand army; and a defalcation, dreadful and decisive, might be the result.

But to come nearer home in my remarks, While the siege of Dantzic is carried on with fury, that of Colberg reposes for a moment, and attempts are insidiously made to disengage the King of Sweden from the

Coalition; but to no purpose. This monarch has renewed his treaties with the King of Prussia; all animosity between these two Sovereigns is forgotten; and 6000 Prussians are on their passage to Stralsund, under Generals Blucher and Tauenzien, while the diplomatic relations between the two courts are restored.

Here we see a Monarch, who has already lost the greater part of his states, and the remainder of which is actually attacked by the enemy, sending his best Generals with a considerable force, to defend the dominions of a Sovereign but lately his adversary, when threatened by the common foe.—An incident like this may allow us to hope, that the spirit of a generous and wise coalition is not yet every where extinct. Were every enemy of France to act thus, Europe might still be saved from impending bondage.

Sweden having been found incorruptible, it is now deemed necessary to collect a large force on this frontier of Germany. On Sunday last, Marshal Brune received, by a courier from Finkenslein, the command of all the forces in Lower Saxony, which united with the troops coming from Italy, are to form an army of observation against the Swedes and English, and at the same time cover the operations of the Grand Army. The Marshal was to set out from Hamburgh this morning, on his way to Schwerin; and a part of the garrison has already left that City. A number of camps are to be established in Mecklenburgh and Pomerania.

I have endeavoured to represent what is thought here to be the military plan of the enemy. This sketch, if not quite correct, justifies the remark of one of our journalists, that the late events in Poland have restored the arts of war to its former credit. How much, how incalculably much, is gained if an enemy can be compelled to proceed cautiously and slowly, all of whose victories have hitherto been a series of *coup de main*. Surely, when Austria at length sees that the Allies are able to hold France at bay, its energy will revive once more. The transactions at the late diet at Hungary certainly entitle us to form the most lively hopes and expectations.

From the Morning Chronicle.

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Monday next completes a quarter of the Morning Chronicle; after that day the publication of the paper will be suspended.

When one is on his death-bed, it is expected that he speak the truth, whatever he might have done while in full life. The Chronicle being about to take its leave of this sublunary world, now sendeth forth its "last speech and dying words." And as it has been said, that when one approaches the confines of the grave, he may often have more distinct views of futurity, than when shrouded by the dark veil of mortality, if the Chronicle should add a few words by way of prophecy, it may not appear unseasonable.

At the death of the Chronicle many will rejoice; to this I have no objection; let them laugh;—*I* should certainly laugh, were I in their situation; and I shall laugh now, be my situation what it may. Cheetham will say the Chronicle dies for want of support:—very well, so let it be; but I have one consolation, that the Chronicle has had as much support as it deserved—if other papers get more encouragement than they deserve, that is none of my business. This is a land of liberty, a free country—every man has a right to give his money to whom he pleases; and so tenacious are my countrymen of this privilege, that to show their independent spirit, they often give their money to very unworthy objects.—This shows liberty—a man to be a true son of liberty, must have no restraints.—Some, it is true, talk of principle—conscience—and what not! this is all stuff; no principle—no restraint—but Liberty and Republicanism for ever!

The above "last words" are for the majority of mankind—the "sovereign people," who, whatever those high fellows may think of it, and whatever they may say about it at Martling's, I hold in "sovereign" contempt. But there are many people yet in this degraced country that I respect and love; and I am happy to declare that of this description are those who have supported the Chronicle. To these I shall always feel grateful, and hope they will accept of my sincerest acknowledgments. These people, out of desire for my welfare, may wish me

to continue the Chronicle, in hopes of making it a permanent and profitable establishment. They may ask if I really stop for want of the means to carry it on? Though I do not think my friends like Diddler, in the play, yet I feel myself somewhat in the situation of Sam.

" *Diddler.* Sam, have you such a thing " as ten pence about you?

" *Sam.* Yeez: and I mean to keep it " about me."

To be serious (for on one's death bed, one should put on a long face now and then) the establishment of the Chronicle is an expensive one; it has formerly been a political party paper; and has, as far as I can discover, been decently supported. But looking round the political horizon at this time, I think it appears " squally "—and there is very little hope that the paper can long be continued merely as a political paper. To attempt to make it a mercantile paper would at this time require a capital which I freely acknowledge, I have not to risk on such an undertaking—Although, I may, like Sam, have ten pence in my pocket, I have not ten thousand dollars. Indeed if I had it, I think I should be as loth to spend it on the Chronicle as *Sam* was to lend his money to *Diddler*.

I have not the vanity to suppose the death of the Chronicle will have any effect on the harmony of the spheres. The sun, I am apt to think, will rise and set—the moon will wax and wane day and night, and winter and summer succeed each other, in the same order as if the Chronicle still existed, or as if it had never existed. No one, therefore, need be alarmed, as they ought to be; should the *Aurora* be obscured or the *Citizen* be disfranchised—should such an event take place, to be sure the universe would feel a shock—understanding would fail—liberty would droop and die, and wisdom would no more utter her voice in the—porter-houses.

Although the Chronicle may have been guilty of some political sins, yet I must say that I die in such a hardened state, that I have no disposition to make confessions, but go down to the grave with all my imperfections on my head. I dow not, however, leave the world with malice in my heart. I freely and sincerely forgive all those who have attacked me either in mind, body or estate, from the doughty Cheetham, the great gun of democracy, down to that pitiful pop-gun, the Public Advertiser. And I hereby give them full liberty (for I know they will take it whether I give it them or not) *to kill me after I am dead*, with their ink and types, until they are tired of the fun.

(More " last words." in our next.)

IMPORTANT AND TOO TRUE.

A letter from the " highest authority." received at Baltimore, from Washington, and published in an extra Gazette, states—

That a letter had been received from Captain Decatur, of the 4th, by express, finorming, that the British Squadron had moved higher up in Hampton-Roads—that he had been at quarters the whole of the previous night on board the Chesapeake, expecting an attack—that three British tenders, armed, had moved into shoal water—that Commodore Douglass had formally declared Norfolk IN A STATE OF BLOCKADE, and had actually stopped one or two vessels until their " Resolutions " should be rescinded, and that if he was not permitted to obtain supplies he would take them by force!

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Since the above was in type, we have been favoured with the following extract of a letter from the highest authority at Washington, dated July 7th, and containing additional particulars —

" A letter from Capt. Decatur is just received, by express, dated Norfolk, July 4th, stating, that on the preceding evening, the four British ships appeared in Hampton Roads, and by their movements manifested a determination to take the Frigate Chesapeake. All hands were accordingly at quarters all that night. The next

morning, at day break, three tenders were observed sounding the channel. On the 4th, in the morning early, they brought too a vessel going from Hampton to Norfolk, and by her sent a let- from commodore Douglass, declaring, that if they did not rescind their resolutions, he would cut off all communication with Norfolk by water, so as to allow no vessel whatever to go to or from that place; and on the 4th, a small vessel proceeding from Hampton to Norfolk was fired at and turned back. They have sent several insolent messages to Norfolk, among others, that if they did withhold from them all supplies, "*they would take them by force.*"

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We have now arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of national degradation. We have no fears of an *Irish hoist*—a peg lower.—Down we are, and down we must be; and down we deserve to be.

It is the quintessence of nonsense for Federalists to exert themselves to save a people at once deaf and blind. The Federalists have worn themselves out in preaching to asses' ears. Their every exertion has been directed to the purpose of making the nation powerful, in order that the nation may be respected, and they are despised, buffetted, and denied the means of subsistence, by way of reward.

"That low cunning, which in fools supplies,
"And amply too, the place of being wise,"

has ever opposed, and at last entirely destroyed, their influence. We now *suffer*, because we would not *see*. We have one, and but one consolation, which is, that we *deserve* our misfortunes.

We wish, however, that every possible exertion, as we are actually engaged in a war, might be used by way of defence. But without funds, without finances, without a government in which we can place confidence, what can be done? Meet in the park, and pass flaming patriotic resolutions—whew! But what next? I dont know.

Begin with respecting talents and integrity, and learn not to give the vilest of the vile the ascendency in the community.

2dly. Arm and fortify. But how will you proceed? the government has refused—Congress will not grant a sum in the least degree adequate to the purpose.

The next thing is to try what can be done by subscription. That is, on the whole, a sorry expedient. We wish, however, to see it tried, and to the amount of our ability we will subscribe.

What is the situation of the Narrows? We have little to apprehend, I believe, from an attack from any other quarter. By the way of Hell-Gate we have comparatively little to fear. Can we erect a fort or forts that will command the channel? If we can, how much have we to allow for a brisk breeze, which might, perhaps, enable a ship under sail to run the gauntlet of our batteries without much damage?

If we cannot efficiently fortify at the narrows, what might be done by bringing artillery to bear upon our assailants, when they become stationary?

In order to burn our town about our ears, they will probably come to an anchor; and we know a ship at anchor is a better mark than a ship under sail.

Baron Steuben, we have been told, suggested to our good citizens the propriety of having a *park of artillery;* the cannon to be mounted on carriages, which could with the greatest facility be transported to any part where they might be found necessary.

We wish that these subjects might command the attention of our countrymen. We have merely given a few hints, which we hope will awaken their attention, and that some more able pencil will complete our outline.

Whether the present ominous appearances should or should not terminate in an open and destructive war, we ought to be forewarned. We ought to foresee what *may be* the consequence of our civility system, in which a congee and a proclamation are supposed to be worth a battery of cannon.

The following Song was made for John Bull, but the sentiments which it contains might well be adopted by Yankee Buckskin.

JOHN BULL, when e'er the maggot bites,
Cropsick with ease and quiet,
Raves about wrongs, roars about rights—
All rumpus, rage, and riot.

But if a foreign foe invades,
John tells a different story;
Away with fears, away with feuds,
All Union, Triumph, Glory!

He scorns Dons, Dutchmen, & Mounseers,
And spite of their alliance,
With half the world about his ears,
Bids t'other half defiance!

Now John Bull, having a navy, and being wherewithal fortified and armed, might look and talk big with propriety. We may look and talk big, but can we act?

The following beautiful Lines are from an English translation of Cupid and Psyche, *a Mythological tale, from the Golden Ass of Apuleius.*

Young Psyche still more beauteous grows;
She seems unconscious of her charms—
Yet no one plucks this opening rose—
She takes no suitor to her arms.

Each sister shines a regal bride,
In sweet connubial union blest;
Each moves conspicuous in the pride
Of sceptred state and ermin'd vest.

But Psyche owns no lawful lord;
She walks a Goddess from above—
All saw, all prais'd, and all ador'd,
But no one ever dar'd to love.

Yet half-form'd wishes still will ply
With feverish dreams th' unpractis'd mind,
When the clos'd eye, unknowing why,
Its wonted slumbers fails to find.

Though the blank heart no passion owns,
Some soft ideas will intrude,
The pining fair, in silence moans,
Her dull unvaried solitude!

Psyche is described as visiting the apartment of her husband, with a view to murder him in his sleep.

Now trembling, now distracted—bold,
And now irresolute, she seems;
The blue lamp glimmers in her hold,
And in her hand the dagger gleams.

Prepar'd to strike, she verges near,
The blue light glimmering from above,
The hideous sight expects with fear,
And gazes on the God of Love!

Not such a young and and frolic child,
As poets feign, or sculptors plan;
No, no—she sees, with transports wild,
Eternal Beauty veil'd in Man!

His cheeks ingrain'd carnation glow'd,
Like rubies on a bed of pearls,
And down his ivory shoulders flow'd,
In clustering bands, his golden curls.

Soft as the cygnet's down his wings,
And as the falling snow-flake fair,
Each light elastic feather springs,
And dances in the balmy air!

The pure and vital stream he breathes,
Makes e'en the lamp shine doubly bright,
Which, its gay flame enamour'd, wreathes,
And gleams with scintillating light!

Translation of Dr. Johnson's Greek Epitaph upon Goldsmith.

STAY, traveller, nor pass regardless by,
Where Oliver's lamented reliques lie;
You, who the deeds of early times explore,
"Eye nature's walks," sweet poesy adore;
Here, from life's various occupations torn,
Th' historian, nat'ralist, and poet, mourn.

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